

RHS HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2008

Welcome and Guest Speaker Jeff Nyhuis

Frances welcomed New Parents (Note: New Parents Welcome gathering preceded Home and School Meeting) and introduced Jeff Nyhuis, Head of Math for District.

Jeff shared his story about his personal reason for leaving the District when he was RHS Vice Principal to go to North Carolina and also his reason for returning to Ridgewood which he loves. The only thing he misses in his new job is his direct experience with students, so he is finding ways to engage with kids. The primary current purpose of his role is to ensure that Middle School Math is aligned and ready for transition to High School.

Principal's Report

Jack reinforced his pleasure at having Jeff back.

Curriculum issues being solidified to enhance year-long relationships with teachers and to make Senior year more Rigorous.

Relationship with BCC launched so that RHS students can receive pre-collegiate college credits (as a cost-effective way to earn college credits).

English 12 Honors established; will expand to Psychology.

Other ways are being created for kids in the middle to accrue College credits.

Mr. Lorenz spent the past week in Germany, helping to create a new course on Global issues – we are the first U.S. High School – this coming year's host country will be Prague/Czech Republic.

Computerized Alcohol Program will be launched first three weeks of April.

Change to refine Attendance policy is in process.

Warning to parents: house parties may be on the rise.

Guidance Report

Peg Loonam reported that HSPA testing went well Next week is College Night, with approximately 150 affirmations from different colleges. These fairs are changing and not as effective, but the tradition has continued.

College Speaker Series is scheduled April 16 – this will feature a panel discussion and should be a lively discussion re college admissions.

Graduation preparation is underway – meetings with at-risk Seniors will be held soon.

Board of Ed Rep

Joe Vallerini reported that April 15 is the Vote for both the budget and the Board. There will be at least one new Board Member, as one is not returning (next month's HSA Meeting will feature the budget and candidates and Dr. Brennan, our Interim Superintendent).

Superintendent search update: more candidates applied this time; April will include two separate sets of meetings to finalize final interviews.

2 new Principals being hired for 2 open elementary school positions.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Treasurer Wendy Wong and approved.

Student Reps

Cally Trautwein and Melanie Horn presented an update on School Dances – raised money for Veterans; Senior Citizen Dance and Sophomore Semi-formal dances were successful; Junior dance is coming up and so is a School-wide sequel in April.

Teacher's Report

Our Librarian /Media Specialist reported. She is helping identify resources for major papers, esp. in History and English.

She introduced the Legacy Program, where parents can donate special books in their graduating Senior's honor.

Class Rep Reports

Project Graduation:

Lori Nash provided an update on the very successful Fashion show of the preceding weekend. \$30,000 was made, with a huge model and audience turnout and three very special administrator models (Jack Lorenz, Peg Loonam, Basil Pizzuto).

Upcoming fundraiser at the Elks Club featuring a local parents' band.

Next meeting will be May 7 re the Prom, Dinner Dance, Newsletter. Close to 100 parents have been attending.

May 24 will be working sessions at BF – this is a huge job.

Freshman Reps:

Possible fundraiser will be umbrellas and tote bags with "R" on them.

Sophomore Reps:

The keychain was displayed.

Junior Reps:

RHS Photo Album was shown. There will be a meeting in the Campus Center on April 7 for 2009 Project Graduation. They need people.

President Update

Frances Ekblom provided an update of the Federated Meeting. Highlights included a budget presentation by Dr. Brennan; an MIS update and plans to improve communication between schools and improving supporting Directories work; and Director of Music for the District re Middle School and Elementary issues primarily.

Nominating Committee work for next year's RHS HSA is underway.

Role definitions for all Chairpeople and coordinator roles for next year have been created by Sara Erwin and Elizabeth Resnick.

Frances reminded this year's current incumbents to please fill in their forms so that future coordinators can use these as guidelines.

Development

Vicki Herbert gave an update on the first time ever Development letter to the parent community soliciting contributions. \$15,000 was collected from an 8% response rate, and this money will be used to purchase laptops. Money can still be donated, thank yous are being written. Purchase should be complete by April.

Safety

Please e-mail Fran or Rose Bonniello with any safety concerns.

Hospitality

Please help bake for Staff Meetings.

Jamboree Rep

Over \$114,000 was collected for scholarships. Class reps will receive money for class ads.

Vice President

Elizabeth Resnick briefly explained the purpose of the Role Definitions for next year's HSA coordinator/chairpeople/liaison positions and distributed them to all attendees. The key purpose is so that parents want to participate and that they understand more clearly what these roles comprise.

Curriculum

Ann Robinson gave us an update on 2 meetings held this year that focused on Education into the 21st Century. Next topic will be the Assessment Model.

Anyone with questions please call Ann or Eileen (Haynes).

New Business

Next month's meeting is at April 8th and will feature the Budget, Board of Ed, and Art Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Resnick, for Hilary Jones